

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as indicated below. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) A powder inhaler, comprising
a powder container;
an air channel through which air can be drawn via a mouthpiece;
a metering member equipped with a dosing recess, the metering member being movable between a filling position in which the dosing recess can be filled with powder, and an inhalation position, in which the dosing recess, when filled, can be brought into the air channel, wherein a stream of inhaled air can discharge a dose of powder directly from the dosing recess;
actuating means for the displacement of the metering member between the filling and the inhalation position; and
a closure element adapted to plug the air channel around the metering member in a substantially water-proof manner, so as to protect the air channel around the metering member from moisture, when the metering member is in the filling position, and to open the air channel when the metering member is in the inhalation position,
wherein operation of the actuating means results in the movement of the metering member as well as the closure element ~~the actuating means communicates or is connected with the closure element.~~

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) A powder inhaler according to claim 1, comprising first sealing means to secure the substantially water-proof plugging of the air channel by the closure element.

4. (Previously Presented) A powder inhaler according to claim 1, wherein the closure element is in the form of a closure plate connected to the actuating means.

5. (Previously Presented) A powder inhaler according to claim 1, wherein the closure element is in the form of a pair of closure plates connected to the actuating means.

6. (Previously Presented) A powder inhaler according to claim 4, wherein the closure plate is equipped with a hole and is slidably mounted across the air channel.

7. (Previously Presented) A powder inhaler according to claim 3, wherein the first sealing means comprises an elastic seal fitted between the closure element and the wall portion of the air channel and means for pressing the closure element tightly against the seal when the inhaler is not actuated.

8. (Previously Presented) A powder inhaler according to claim 7, wherein the means for pressing the closure element tightly against the seal comprises a wedge-formed element extending from the closure plate and adapted to contact with a pushing surface as the actuator returns to its rest position.

9. (Previously Presented) A powder inhaler according to claim 1, wherein the metering member extends into the interior of the powder container.

10. (Previously Presented) A powder inhaler according to claim 9, wherein the metering member is in the form of an axially movable metering rod equipped with a dosing recess.

11. (Previously Presented) A powder inhaler according to claim 10, wherein the actuating means is a depressable device cover to which the metering rod is connected.

12. (Previously Presented) A powder inhaler according to claim 3, further comprising an inhaler body, and further comprising second sealing means for providing substantially water-proof sealing between the actuating means and the inhaler body while allowing the movement of the actuating means in relation to the inhaler body.

13. (Previously Presented) A powder inhaler of claim 12, wherein the second sealing means is in the form of an elastic tube comprising a corrugated wall.

14. (Previously Presented) A powder inhaler according to claim 1, comprising first sealing means to secure the substantially water-proof plugging of the air channel by the closure element.

15. (Previously Presented) A powder inhaler according to claim 5, wherein the closure plate is equipped with a hole and is slidably mounted across the air channel.